

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-01

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BF, US, XL

SUBJECT: GCOB CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERY RESOURCES (CSFR)

REF: NASSAU 1714 AND PREVIOUS

1. MR. HARTLEY SAUNDERS, EMB OF BAHAMAS, VISITED COA TODAY (FRIDAY) TO INQUIRE ABOUT USG EXPERIENCE WITH ENFORCEMENT OF CSFR LAWS. HE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BENEFIT BY USG EXPERIENCE, PARTICULARLY REGARDING LOBSTER AND CRAB, AND ASKED FOR COPIES OF CIRCULAR NOTES WE HAVE SENT TO OTHER NATIONS DELINEATING US CSFR POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES. HE WAS PROVIDED COPIES AS REQUESTED. ADDITIONAL COPIES POUCHED TO YOU TODAY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION, MR. SAUNDERS SAID:

A. TOURIST INDUSTRY IN BAHAMAS HAS ABOUT REACHED PEAK. NEED TO EXPAND FISHERIES AS MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT OF BAHAMIANS.

B. GCOB CONCERNED ABOUT MINERAL AND LIVING RESOURCES OF CONTINENTAL SHELF. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ARE IMPOR-

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TANT.

C. GCOB HAS NO DESIRE TO MAKE PEOPLE STOP FISHING FOR LIVING RESOURCES ON BAHAMIAN SHELF, BUT SOME FORM OF

MANAGEMENT CONTROL WILL BE NECESSARY, SUCH AS REGISTRATION OF VESSELS AND REPORTING OF CATCH STATISTICS.

D. ARCHIPELAGO STATUS NEEDS TO BE SOLVED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, MR. SAUNDERS AGREED THAT THERE IS GREAT LACK OF SCIENTIFIC DATA ON BIOLOGY AND RANGE OF SPINY LOBSTER AND THAT A PRIMARY AIM OF JOINT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE TO GATHER DATA FOR RATIONAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME. HE THEN SAID HE FORESAW A NEED FOR A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN USG/GCOB ON FISHERIES MATTERS.

4. WE AGREED, AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO REOPEN THE FISHERIES TALKS LAST HELD IN 1971, AND THAT THE SOONER WE COULD GET STARTED THE BETTER IT WOULD BE. MR. SAUNDERS SAID HE WOULD DO SOME PRELIMINARY CHECKING ON THE IDEA AND BE IN TOUCH WITH US.

5. NO EMBASSY ACTION IS DESIRED ON THE ABOVE AT THIS TIME.

6. UNDERSTAND EMBASSY HAS BEEN INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO INDUSTRY/GOVT MEETING IN MIAMI OCT 23 AT NATL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE LAB, VIRGINIA KEY. INGERSOLL

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